

RECOGNIZING THE NORWIN AREA
CELEBRATION 2000**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as the turn of the century approaches, Americans will become more and more excited about the time in which we are living. A new millennium is an event which we are indeed honored to witness, and such an event is worthy of celebration.

To this end, an organization in my Congressional District, the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, has been hard at work to ensure that the closing years of this century and the first year of the next century are welcomed with enthusiasm. The Norwin Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with local schools and businesses, has arranged an impressive calendar of events for Celebration 2000, including parades, a business EXPO, and, of course, a First Night 2000.

These events will certainly unite the people, businesses, governments, churches, and other organizations of not only the Norwin Area, but all of Westmoreland County, by providing the community with three years of high visibility events and activities.

Clearly, the time and effort it takes to organize such a gala event is worthy of our recognition here today. I ask that the Members of the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing these efforts. Through their hard work and dedication, Celebration 2000 will be a project worthy of taking place once in a 1,000 years.

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL
RESPONDS TO HURRICANE MITCH**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the tremendous energy and compassion displayed by a group of students from Richmond High School in Richmond, California. Seeing the devastation of Hurricane Mitch on the nightly news, these students took action and responded. As reported in the following article, their efforts brought together the entire Richmond High community in the spirit of giving, and the people of both Central America and Richmond, California, are better for it.

[From the WC Times, Jan. 13, 1999]

RICHMOND HIGH GIVES LOADS AFTER STORM
(By Mary Reiley)

They collected boxes and boxes of food, clothing and over-the-counter medicines for adults and children who survived Hurricane Mitch, which devastated Honduras and Nicaragua in October.

Students in Richmond High's Alma Latina Club and leadership class collected so many boxes that their large truck could not carry all the donated items to the American Red Cross.

And it wasn't just the club and class members who contributed items and money.

Students attending dances, sports and the annual Harvest Festival got in by bringing canned foods.

Parents brought items on report card night, and staff members loaned their faces so students could pay to throw pies at them.

Students and staff from Helms Middle School and West Contra Costa Adult Education also gave.

"It speaks well of the community that we can come together when there's a need," said Isidora Martinez-McAfee.

She sponsors the Alma Latina Club and is the bilingual U.S. history and government teacher.

Most of the students in her classes and the club are from Mexico or Central America, Martinez-McAfee said, so they felt a connection to the hurricane victims.

When the club decided to send items from its annual canned food drive to Hurricane Mitch survivors, the leadership class rallied the student body to participate, said senior Maria Miranda, 18.

She is a member of the leadership class and the student body's school board representative.

Everyone enrolled in social science classes at the school, grades nine through 12, is required to complete at least 15 hours of community service.

Membership in the leadership class and Alma Latina is not required.

Kia Yancy, 17, and a senior said she would still have become involved if there were no service rule.

"Richmond High did a good deed," Kia said.

"We were looking out for the people in Central America."

The leadership class member said it and the club worked together, collecting, bagging and boxing the goods and loading them on the truck at 7:30 a.m. Friday.

They gathered enough to fill more than half a classroom with items, she said. Everything was delivered to the Red Cross for eventual shipment to Central America.

Martinez-McAfee said the students are happy with the donations, but some are disappointed about reported delays in delivery.

"We hope it gets to where it's supposed to be going," Maria said. "We wanted to help."

The effort was worthwhile for students because it unified and helped show what is outside of school, Maria said.

"It gave them a sense of what's going on in the world, and it's healthy for the mind, too," she said.

Nancy Ivey teaches the leadership class, plus social science and wood shop.

She sees the students' efforts as a demonstration of one more way they set goals and achieve them.

"The students feel the school has a negative and false reputation," Ivey said.

Farm Saephan, 16, junior class treasurer and member of the leadership class said, "We're doing whatever we can to help people in need. It made us feel good about ourselves. The people (in Central America) and in need more than we are here."

IN HONOR AND FAITH: RECOGNIZING
THE HEROISM OF THE IMMORTAL
FOUR CHAPLAINS**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the Immortal Four Chaplains' heroism and legacy that serve as an ex-

ample to the lives of individuals who have stood up courageously in the face of hatred and prejudice to protect others.

On February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was struck by a torpedo from a German U-boat off the shores of Greenland. Nearly 700 people perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Four Army Chaplains showed extraordinary faith and personal sacrifice by calming fears, handing out life jackets, and guiding men to safety. Many of the 230 men who survived owed their lives to these Four Chaplains.

This historic event and circumstances has received recognition in the past with Congressional Resolutions and a postage stamp issuance commemorating the heralded event. At this point, however, memories have understandably faded. This heroic act and example could serve as a focal point today drawing together Americans of varied faiths and ethnic backgrounds positively reflecting upon challenging America's cultural pluralism and diversity. The lesson of mutual respect, tolerance, and sacrifice need to be learned anew by each generation of Americans. The Four Chaplains stand out as an extraordinary human experience, relevant yesterday and today.

Set against the example of the Immortal Four Chaplains, the Immortal Four Chaplains Foundation was formed to provide a platform to tell the stories of those who have risked their lives to save others of a different race or faith. The Minnesota based foundation was founded in 1997 by the nephew and daughter of two of the Chaplains and has drawn the support and participation of former Vice President Walter Mondale, former Senator Bob Dole, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and many other prominent leaders, including survivors of the German U-boat 223 which sank the Dorchester.

On Sunday, February 7th, 1999, in Minnesota, I had the honor of jointly awarding Archbishop Desmond Tutu with the first Immortal Chaplains prize for Humanity. On his first trip to Minnesota, the Archbishop, whose rise to worldwide leadership in defending the rights of the oppressed, first drew attention from his driving voice against Apartheid while Nelson Mandela was imprisoned in South Africa. As the Anglican Archbishop of that country, Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his courageous stand against great odds. On his retirement as Archbishop of Cape Town, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This commission has performed an historic role and precedent in revealing the truth about atrocities committed in the past and providing the means of peaceful resolutions for the pain and humiliation suffered by that nation. Today, he continues to champion the plight of social justice.

I would like to acknowledge other recipients of the Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity that were awarded posthumously, U.S. Coast Guard Steward'smate Charles W. David, an African-American who lost his life as a result of rescuing survivors of the Dorchester on which the Chaplains and some 700 individuals perished and Amy Biehl, an outstanding young American Fulbright Scholar who was stoned to death in South Africa in 1993, where she had gone to help struggle against Apartheid. A crew member and buddy of Steward'smate David accepted the award on his behalf and